# 98-84372-8

Consumers' League (London, England)

You are invited to attend a meeting for the formal...

London

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#### TECHNICAL MICROFORM DATA

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[PROOF.]

## CONSUMERS' LEAGUE

You are invited to attend

## EETING

For the formal establishment of the above, at

★ Westminster \* Palace \* Hotel, \*\*

Wednesday Afternoon, Nov. 19th,

At 3.30 p.m.

Chair will be taken by the

REV. H. SCOTT-HOLLAND, M.A.,

Canon of St. Paul's.

#### Mr. F. C. BAUM

(Of the Executive of the London Trades' Council).

RICHARD STAPLEY, Esq.,

Rev. H. C. SHUTTLEWORTH, M.A.

Miss CLEMENTINA BLACK

(Hon. Sec. of the Women's Trade Union Association).

HENRY BAZETT, M.A.,

And others are expected to speak.

GREEN, McAllan & Feilden, 3, Ludgate Circus, London, E.C.

THIS Association is an attempt on the part of persons, who are themselves buyers, to make it easier for buyers, who wish to do so, to avoid injustice in their dealings. We recognise that each of us is responsible for the conditions under which work done for us is done, and that the employer is virtually powerless to improve these conditions, so long as the customer persists in buying in the cheapest market, regardless of how cheapness is brought about.

But no buyer has time to find out for himself what the conditions actually are under which those things which he purchases are made. He needs a sort of register similar to the list of "fair houses" published by some Trade Unions. This register should be the result of systematic inquiry, should be easily accessible, should be constantly kept up to date, and should contain the names of those employers only whose workers are proved to be receiving fair payment, and to be working under fair conditions.

To draw up such a register is one of the purposes of the proposed Consumers' League.

We shall appeal to employers to allow inquiry into the conditions of their workpeople, and we believe there are many who would gladly help to make public the actual conditions in their trade. We shall be ready to include in our list any employer who desires to be placed upon it, and who, after investigation, is found to fulfil the required conditions.

We are well aware that the task before us is a large and difficult one. We are taking it up in no spirit of animosity towards any class, and shall be always anxious to rectify any errors which are shown to us.

Whether we succeed or not in doing any real good, will depend upon the number of buyers who show their wish to deal justly by joining themselves to us, and giving their cycling to those whose pages appear on our lists.

We are asserting in regard to individual buyers the principle, which has already been asserted in regard to corporate bodies by the London School Board, the London County Council, and many other public bodies, that not the lowest wage, but a fair wage should be paid.

We believe that the great majority of our fellow citizens desire to carry out this principle, if they could but see a way of doing so. To show them such a way is the object of this Association.

Resolutions I. That the especiable for the terrible ech accordable by the redeal to be proenquisy into the Sweating System rests largely with the inverse, and then
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articles which they purchase are produced and to insist that these conMeeting.

2.—That an Association be hereby formed of persons who recignise that duty, and are willing to combine for its performance. That the Association shall, through its Executive, after due enquiry, publish for the guidance of its Members a list of "fair" employers in all branches of inbustry. And that the following shall be the Rules of the Association:

Proposed Rules.

- The name of no person will appear on this list, of whom the Executive Committee are not satisfied that he or she pays at or above a specified rate of wage. This rate shall at first be, as far as practicable, the established rate of
- The name of no person will appear on this list whose workers do not enjoy certain specified conditions as to hours of work, meal-times, sanitary arrangements, &c.
- The name of any employer will be added to this list who
  proves to the satisfaction of the Executive Committee that
  he fulfils the required conditions.
- 4. The list will be published at stated interval-
- Every member will be entitled to receive a copy of the list without payment, providing he sends to the Executive addressed and stamped postal wrappers.
- 6. The list will also be on sale.
- All persons are eligible to become members of the Consumers'
  League, who will undertake to deal as far as possible
  with those firms whose names appear on the League's
  list. Members are not bound over never to buy at other
- 8. All members will be required to pay a minimum annual subscription of half-a-crown.

Proposed Agreement.

I hereby agree to allow free entry into any part of my business premises to an accredited agent of the Consumers' League, to permit him to examine my wages book and question my employees, and I agree to answer inquiries made officially by the Executive Committee of the Consumers' League, on the following definite points:

Rate of wages baid (Holidays? Overtime?)

Hours worked.

Meal-times.

Sauitary Conditions.

Wholesale houses dealt with.

The Executive Committee of the Consumers League engages that these particulars shall not be published in detail.

All enquiries to be made of HENRY BAZETT, M.A., Provisional Hon. Secretary, 128 Mile End Road, E.

# END OF TITLE